

# Strategic Plan Report

Benton County Public Health

2015–2019

| Benton County Human Services, Public Health Unit

## Introduction

Benton County Human Services is an integrated public health and human service agency. Services include public health, child support, social services, mental health and financial support. In partnership with local service providers, regional state and federal partners, BCHS is educating our community through public health efforts and providing safety and protection to the most vulnerable children and adults.

The BCHS department reports directly to the Benton County Human Services Board which operates in accordance with Minnesota Statute 145A.09–17 and Minnesota Statute 393.01–13. Benton County Human Services Board consists of 5 County Commissioners. There are approximately 90 staff employed in the various units of the department.

The Public Health Unit of BCHS provides services to promote healthier and safe living for the Benton County Community. These services include disease prevention and control, Women’s, Infants and Children program, emergency preparedness, maternal and child health, and community health improvement priorities. In collaboration with community partners, the Public health Unit is responsible for determining and addressing local public health needs as well as community health priorities.

## Background

In Minnesota, the Community Health Services (CHS) Act of 1976 established a “State Community Health Services Advisory Committee” (SCHSAC), to advise, consult with and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health on matters relating to the development, funding and evaluation of community health services in Minnesota. The CHS Act (later renamed the Local Public Health Act) began the partnership between the Minnesota Department of Health and local governments. This state/local partnership has proved to be an effective tool for protecting and improving the health of all Minnesotans.

In 2011, SCHSAC approved recommendations from the “Performance Improvement Steering Committee” that Community Health Boards in Minnesota be required to submit three plans for the 2010–2014 assessment and planning cycle. These plans were:

1. Community Health Improvement Plan
2. Strategic Plan
3. Quality Improvement Plan

As a result of the recommendation, the Office of Performance Improvement (OPI) from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) issued an application for a Strategic Planning Facilitation Project in 2012. The goal of the project was to help facilitate a strategic planning process with at least 8 local or tribal health departments. A strategic planning process overview, tools, templates, and other supporting materials are available from MDH. All guidance has been designed to help CHBs meet the national public health standards develop by PHAB.

### Strategic Plan: Process Overview

Strategic planning is a deliberate decision–making process that determines the direction in which the organization is going.



